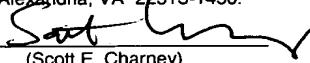




I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being transmitted with the U.S. Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as First Class Mail, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Dated: June 2, 2006

Signature: 

(Scott E. Charney)

Docket No.: SPINE 3.0-414
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Jérôme David

Application No.: 10/695,849

Group Art Unit: 3732

Filed: October 29, 2003

Examiner: J. L. Swiger

For: BONE FIXATION ASSEMBLY AND
METHOD

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This communication is in response to the Office Action mailed April 24, 2006, setting forth a Restriction Requirement in the above-identified application. In the Office Action, the Examiner required restriction to one of the following inventions under 35 U.S.C. §121:

I. Claims 1-31, drawn to a device, classified in class 606, subclass 61.

II. Claims 32-38, drawn to a method, classified in class 606, subclass 60.

In response, Applicants hereby elect the invention of Group I, corresponding to claims 1-31. Applicants reserve the right to file a divisional application corresponding to the non-elected claims.

In the event any fee is due in connection with the present response, the Examiner is authorized to charge Applicant's Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

Dated: June 2, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By Scott E. Charney
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